so potent in China as in Japan. In the latter country (under the Japanese pronunciation of his name, Oyomei) he was to have a great vogue, the controversy between his followers and those of Chu Hsi often becoming acute. Even in China, he had many admirers.

In the latter part of the Ming at least one other heterodox school arose, stood persecution for its principles, and was active in politics.

The tendency of progressive and radical philosophers, including Wang Yang-ming, it may be noted, was more toward ethical living and saving society than abstract speculation. The practicality which was a dominant feature of the period found expression in them as in other more tangible directions.

/CULTURE UNDER THE MING! LITERATURE

In literature the Ming displayed little marked originality. No new types of works of outstanding significance appeared. There was, however, rnuch literary activity. In quantity the output was large and the quality by no means always mediocre. Great libraries were collected, both under imperial auspices and by private individuals.

Printing, now for many years a commonplace, made the circulation of books comparatively easy and inexpensive, and so continued to encourage authorship. Both wooden blocks and movable type were employed. Government presses at Nanking and Peking had a monopoly of the publication of the Classics and of other works issued by imperial authorization. Frequently books so printed were distributed among the various educational institutions. Private presses, some of them kept in the same families for generations, printed many other works, including those which fall within the classification of *belles lettres.*

The drama was popular and although the plays of former dynasties continued to be produced, at least one new type with the accompanying music was originated, simpler than the classical style.

The period appears to have made its chief intellectual contributions through the novel. This type of literature was, as we have seen, not an invention of Ming scholars, but had first risen into prominence under the Mongols. During the Ming, however, it